

US Recommends Ways to Ease Kosovo-Serbia Lake Dispute

Xhorxhina Bami | Pristina | BIRN | June 24, 2021 16:08

The US has issued a report on how to best manage an important reservoir disputed between Kosovo and Serbia, in line with the commitments it made when the two countries signed the so-called Washington deal in 2020.



Ujman/ Gazivode lake. Photo: BIRN/ Denis Sllavinja

The US Department of Energy has finalized a feasibility report on the management of the disputed Ujman/ Gazivode lake in accordance with the 2020 Washington deal signed by former US President Donald Trump, separately, with Kosovo and Serbia, as part of the two countries' dialogue.

The US embassy in Pristina announced on Wednesday that it had delivered the report to the government of Kosovo, "fulfilling one of the September 4 (2020) Washington commitments". The government of Serbia has also received the report, according to the embassy in Pristina.

The strategically important reservoir was created in the 1970s in the mainly Serb-populated north of Kosovo. It is claimed by both Serbia and its former province, which declared independence in 2008.

The report provided four recommendations to improve the security of the water supply system. First, infrastructure should be updated in accordance with World Bank recommendations.

Second, the Supervisory control and data acquisition, SCADA, an internationally recognised centralized system of processing and controlling real-life data, should be introduced in collecting data from the Ujman/ Gazivode hydro-power plant. The report said this will help Kosovo's public electricity Transmission, System and Market Operator, KOSTT, to manage electricity prices as well as supply. In addition, SCADA will clarify the necessary investments in infrastructure.

Third, the report suggests implementation of commission and evaluation of the Iber river, which flows into the lake. The commission would be useful in the EU-led Kosovo-Serbia dialogue by bringing forward different management opportunities, including shareholding opportunities.

The report notes the example of the Grand Coulee dam in the Columbia river, regulated via a treaty between the US and Canada. The fourth recommendation is to improve the predictions of water supply.

Kosovo and Serbia on September 4, 2020 separately signed an agreement on economic, energy and political issues with the US at a ceremony presided over by Mr Trump in Washington.

One of the agreed points was to work with the US on "a feasibility study for the purpose of sharing [the disputed] Gazivode/Ujmani Lake, as a reliable water and energy supply".

However, the Kosovo government, then led by Avdullah Hoti from the now opposition party Democratic League of Kosovo, LDK, was criticized for including the lake in the Washington deal.

At a parliamentary session on Thursday, opposition MPs sought clarification from the government on the likely implementation of the deal.

Abelard Tahiri, head of the parliamentary group of the opposition Democratic Party of Kosovo, PDK, said the government needed to clarify whether the agreement would be implemented due to its former rejection by current ruling party, Vetevendosje. "We have no obligations to the commitments of the illegitimate Prime Minister of Kosovo when we return to office," current PM Albin Kurti had tweeted at the time the agreement was signed.

Hoti meanwhile requested an apology from Kurti, claiming the report proves that Kosovo's sovereignty was not in danger of being violated. "I told you, even then, do not rush, because time brings everything to light," he told MPs.



NEWS

Serbia-Kosovo Talks Fail To Make Progress Despite EU Optimism

June 15, 2021 09:00 GMT

UPDATED June 15, 2021 18:07 GMT

By RFE/RL's Balkan Service

A first round of talks between the leaders of Serbia and Kosovo on June 15 in Brussels failed to make progress towards normalizing relations between the two Balkan neighbors.

Within hours of the meeting, the United States and European Union reiterated that they would keep up joint efforts at reconciliation between the bitterly divided former Yugoslav republics.

"We intend to further strengthen our joint engagement in the Western Balkans, including through the EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina on normalization of their relations, and by supporting key reforms for EU integration," said a combined statement following a summit among U.S. President Joe Biden, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, and European Council chief Charles Michel.

Serbian and Kosovar leaders last met a year ago as part of decade-long negotiations aimed at resolving disputes that continue to taint relations more than 20 years after the 1998-1999 Kosovo War.

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008, nearly a decade after the war between ethnic Albanian separatists and the forces of rump Yugoslavia. The war ended after a 78-day NATO bombing campaign that drove Belgrade's troops out.

For nearly a decade, a NATO-led peacekeeping force (KFOR) provided security while a United Nations administration temporarily ran Kosovo.

Kosovo's independence has been recognized by more than 100 countries including the United States and all but five of the European Union's 27 member states. But Serbia still considers the territory a southern province, and is supported by Russia and China.

The meeting in Brussels on June 15 was also the first since Kosovar Prime Minister Albin Kurti, a left-wing reformist, claimed a landmark victory in February's parliamentary elections -- pledging to take a new tack in talks with Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic.

The two leaders gave slightly differing accounts of the meeting, although both acknowledged the lack of progress.

Vucic said Kurti had "demanded" Serbian recognition and refused to discuss a 2013 deal to establish 10 Serbian-majority "municipalities" in Kosovo that has never been implemented

"I've never attended this kind of a meeting in my life. Complete lack of responsibility," Vucic said in televised comments.

"The man [Kurti] came to ask me -- when are you going to recognize independent Kosovo. I told him, 'Never,' and he exploded."

For his part, Kurti called the talks "constructive."

"We will take part in this process which is difficult," he told Kosovar media, adding: "The Serbian side talked about old proposals, we brought four new proposals which were refused by the Serbian side."

Despite EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell's initially optimistic assessment that "there is a new momentum" in discussing the unsolved issues of the Western Balkans, EU envoy Miroslav Lajcak admitted that "it was not an easy meeting."

"Both leaders had a very open and frank exchange on what they each want from the dialogue," Lajcak said.

Both sides agreed to push ahead with the talks and Lajcak said a new round would happen before the end of July.

Both Washington and Brussels insist that normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina is essential for their further integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions.

With reporting by AFP



COVID-19 UŽIVO U SVETU

[Detaljno](#)

OBOLELI

185,668,592

UMRLI

4,013,748

IZLEČENI

169,903,298

English

0

0

Vucic: Compromise only solution for Kosovo and Metohija, people decide

30/06/21 | 10:20

"We need a pragmatic approach, open doors for talks to find a solution, we need to build trust, which takes time, as well as determination of the international community to support Belgrade and Pristina in various ways in reaching a solution," said Vucic

Pretražite Telegraf.rs...

Photo: Tanjug/Rade Prelic

President of Serbia Aleksandar Vucic said last night **that a rational, pragmatic approach is needed to resolve the issue of Kosovo and Metohija, as well as readiness to talk** in order to find a compromise solution.

"We need a pragmatic approach, open doors for talks to find a solution, we need to build trust, which takes time, as well as determination of the international community to support Belgrade and Pristina in various ways in reaching a solution," Vucic told Euronews Serbia, Tanjug reported.

Asked what the Kosovo myth is, **Vucic said that it is a myth - if we do not see that reality changes every day** and that we are not in an ideal position, as we often want to present ourselves, but that, on the other hand, there is another part of the Kosovo epic, without which we can't do, and that's the value of everything our ancestors have done.

Pretražite Telegraf.rs...

ustina, on siozi pogled u Srbiju
"hteo da joj pomognem da
pređe ulicu"

0:14

Luka i Nikola su posle godinu
dana došli iz Nemačke u
Beograd i priredili baki
iznenađenje

0:44

"The myth is that everything is easy and simple and that we only need to tell the world - get out of here, it is only ours and we should not talk about anything. And that's not easy to connect with reality. **But it is also a myth that the Serbian people do not claim any right to Kosovo and Metohija.** And, somewhere in between, a rational and compromise solution should be found," said Vucic.

Both sides should make concessions

"Serbia is ready for a compromise, to talk about a compromise, and the people are the ones who will decide," Vucic said, referring to the position in the dialogue with Pristina.

Asked what a compromise is, Vucic said that even if he knew he would not say, because a compromise solution should be reached in a way where both sides make concessions.

Asked to comment on **the message of Patriarch Porfirije at Gazimestan that the Kosovo Covenant is the foundation of freedom and creation of the Serb nation**, and that every visit to Kosovo and Metohija is a return to the fatherland, he recalled that not only the current but also the previous patriarch, Irinej, said the same on several occasions.

"He spoke about spiritual values, the Kosovo Covenant concerning our state of mind and what we should do in the future. Without going into what he wanted, and I know that he is committed to preserving Kosovo and Metohija within Serbia, he thought about whether we

Pretražite Telegraf.rs...

"The unfreezing, although it seems attractive to many to freeze the conflict, leads to catastrophe, unrest, conflicts, which no one needs, especially Serbia, which is moving forward the fastest," he said.

When a statement of former Kosovo ambassador to the US Vlora Citaku - who said that time works in favor of Serbia - was mentioned, he replied that if you look from her point of view Serbia is getting stronger, that is true, but that is why the stakes are higher.

"You can get stronger when you have more investments, higher international reputation, but you lose it all by interrupting negotiations, with incidents," Vucic stressed.

(Telegraf.rs)

STORIES FOR YOU

Disgraceful scenes at Gazimestan: Police search a nun, one person arrested, Serbian flag confiscated

Petkovic: Kosovo police behavior is inadmissible, relations don't get normalized by searching nuns

"Chess game still ongoing, we expect more pressure": Serbian president talks about the "non-paper"

**Prijovićka pokreće novi
biznis, a nema veze sa
muzikom: Evo u šta će uložiti
svoj novac**

**"Gospodar Kosova" ostaje u
pritvoru: "Postoje rizici da će
pobeći ili počiniti nova
krivična dela"**

**Evropski mediji: Sezona na
Mediterranu pod znakom
pitanja**

Telegraf.rs zadržava sva prava nad sadržajem. Za preuzimanje sadržaja pogledajte uputstva na stranici [Uslovi korišćenja](#).

TAGS

Pretražite Telegraf.rs...

Two more people die from Covid in Serbia: 103 new case, 10 patients are on ventilators

ENGLISH

0 0

Starleta ponovo otišla pod nož, slike njenog lica bez zavoja su jezive: "Mislila sam da ću umreti"

OGLAS

Dušan Jovančević nam je poslao šokantne poruke o Tanji: Tvrdi da su mu sinovi ovo pisali iz Srbije

OGLAS

"Angola's position on admission of so-called Kosovo to Interpol

Pretražite Telegraf.rs...

0 0

Kurti appoints Andin Hoti as head of Commission for Missing Persons

0 0

WEB STORIES

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/10/2021 5:44:15 PM

There are no comments for this news. Write a first comment.

0

SEND A COMMENT

DAILY VIDEO

ALL FROM DAILY VIDEO CATEGORY



LATEST



MOST READ



COMMENTS

Pretražite Telegraf.rs...

Engleska porokom penja za plasman u finale

0 2

- 12 min ago** **Veliki šumski požar na Kritu: Vatrene stihiju obuzdava 60 vatrogasaca sa dva helikoptera i 29 vozila**
0 0
- 21 min ago** **Engleska je u finalu Eura! Kejn uz blagoslov iz VAR sobe označio kraj sage o Dancima i Eriksenu**
7 13
- 24 min ago** **Ceca ugostila Bogdaninu majku na Kipru: Prije se provode i ne skidaju osmeh sa lica**
0 0
- 27 min ago** **"Knjiga o Beogradu" prevedena na kineski jezik: Imaće dve nove priče**
0 0

ALL LATEST NEWS

GOOGI F DDFDNDI KEF

Pretražite Telegraf.rs...

Vesti

Život

Biznis

Zanimljivosti

Sport

Hi-Tech

Kultura

Auto

Video

Foto

[O nama](#) [Marketing](#) [Impressum](#) [Uslovi korišćenja](#) [Politika privatnosti](#) [Kontakt](#)

© **Telegraf 2020** Sva prava zadržana.